



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Mental Health

At its meeting held November 30, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Director of Mental Health's recommendation to approve and authorize the Director to prepare and execute amendments to 134 Legal Entity Agreements for Fiscal Year 2004-05, to extend the allowable months of the Cash Flow Advance Program for non-Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) contract providers from three to six months and EPSDT contract providers from five to eight months, with no change to each provider's maximum contract amount and no change in the Department's appropriation.

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

"The County entered into an agreement with Sierra Systems Group (Sierra) on September 3, 2002, for an Integrated System (IS) to provide a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Transactions and Code Sets Compliant 'wrapper' to its existing Mental Health Management Information System (MHMIS). The Department of Mental Health (DMH) has taken action to improve support for the IS. They are also working with Sierra and the Internal Services Department to improve performance and reliability but, given the reports my office is receiving from contract providers of mental health services, DMH's efforts still fall short of what is needed."

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After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Adopted the Director of Mental Health's attached recommendation;
2. Instructed the Director of Mental Health to develop by March 11, 2005, a prioritized list of enhancements and modifications to the Integrated System, including the projected cost, at the Department's expense, designed to improve ease of use, provider workflow, claiming success, and information access and management with the providers to be consulted on recommended enhancements and on the prioritization of enhancements;
3. Instructed the Director of Mental Health, while the list of Integrated System enhancements is being developed, to:
 - Continue to develop, test, and implement enhancements and modifications that are of obvious value in resolving current issues;
 - Expedite the adjudication of claims for which the Remittance Advice (ANSI X.12 835 transaction) has been received from the State;
 - Continue to operate the Production Support Centers to justify the time and space commitment;
 - Provide focused training and other topics to make the transition to HIPAA-compliance;
 - Update system documentation and training materials; and
 - Pilot an Internet accessible Integrated System Issues List that provides users with a complete list of issues and their status.

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4. Instructed the Director of Mental Health to meet with the State Departments of Mental Health and Health Services regarding ways to improve the speed and reliability of MediCal claims processing and other related issues; and
5. Provide a monthly status report to the Board until items 2 through 4 above are completed.

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